

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio - Part 1**  
**Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment**

Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; Nina Lou Bunting; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan; and Barbara B. Rutt. Secretary of Education Steven Godowsky was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

The agenda was approved as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale and seconded by Mr. Melendez to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the Retreat of November 5-6, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to approve the retreat minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried by voice vote (Abstain – Mr. Coverdale, Mrs. Rutt).

Minutes from the regular meeting of November 19, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried by voice vote (Abstain – Mr. Melendez).

**Public Comment**

It was explained that the Board would be taking public comment on the WEIC proposal separately from all other public comment.

Lyn Doto from the Midtown Brandywine Neighbors, spoke on the probation of Freire School. She cited parking space issues for the school and concern that emergency vehicles would not be able to access the front of the school building if there was an emergency.

Bill Doolittle, a volunteer advocate for Delaware's at risk children, spoke on sections of NCLB that have been stricken from ESSA.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 2**  
**WEIC Public Comment**

Jea Street made public comment concerning WEIC. Mr. Street stated that the students of Wilmington have waited long enough and there needs to be an approved plan for weighted funding for high poverty students. He also suggested that Wilmington be consolidated into two school districts.

Mike Matthews is President of the Red Clay Education Association. He thanked the Board members for attending the various WEIC hearings. He noted that the RCEA did not approve the WEIC proposal citing that his membership is skeptical to sign off on any proposals based on recent events. Mr. Matthews stated that there is a need for increased funding for ELL, special education and a funding formula for high poverty schools.

Bill Doolittle also made public comment in regards to WEIC. He explained that the funding issues of the plan lie with the State's elected officials and the Board needs to base its

decision on if the plan provides a practical path to meeting the needs of our most at risk students. He stated that he hopes the State Board will vote to approve the plan in January and move it onto the General Assembly.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 3**  
**Committee Reports from State Board Members, Update from Executive Director,**  
**Update on Literacy Campaign Efforts**

Committee Reports and Executive Director's Update

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Mrs. Bunting attended the charter renewals meeting and the DSBA Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Melendez attended one of the WEIC public hearings and the public hearing for Delaware Met. Mrs. Rutt also attended a public hearing for WEIC and also participated in a conference call of the Education Funding Improvement Commission that was formed through Senate Joint Resolution 4. The deadline for the recommendations of the Commission is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Coverdale attended several of the WEIC public hearings and a public hearing for Delaware Met. He attend the holiday showcase at Cab Calloway and also commented on the Achieve Leadership Conference. Mr. Heffernan also attended one of public hearings for Delaware Met.

Ms. Johnson stated that each month she shares news briefs with members of the State Board but also provides news information that is posted for the public as well. She highlighted her attendance at the Achieve Leadership Conference and also provided the Board members with a folder of information on the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Update on Literacy Campaign Efforts

The Board received an update on a certification test for teaching reading and next steps. Ms. Johnson highlighted a meeting that she attended along with Mr. Heffernan and Chris Kenton, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 4**  
**Secretary's Report, Statewide Review of Educational Opportunities**

Secretary's Report

Secretary Godowsky noted the passage of ESSA and also noted the great work happening in Delaware with early childhood programs. He noted his school visits across the State in the last month meeting with parents, teachers and students. Dr. Godowsky commented on the Public School Expo sponsored by the Charter School Network and districts and how well it was attended.

Statewide Review of Educational Opportunities – Update on Project

The PCG Team presented the State Board with an update on the SREO project. PCG was selected as the consultants for this project. The project scope was highlighted which focuses on an interactive statewide geographical map that details school data and information. It also identifies educational opportunities in traditional school districts, vocational schools and charter schools. Some specialized programs that were reviewed include dual language immersion at the elementary level, advanced placement courses and CTE programs in high school, STEM and credit recovery courses. The data collected also showed choice patterns and it was noted that New Castle

County has the largest number of options and the highest concentration of charter schools. Presenters were: Peter Marshall, Anna d'Entremont, Christine Donis-Keller, and Allie Panetta. Also presenting was Ms. Johnson and Dr. Susan Haberstroh. The Department and State Board co-lead this first phase of the project and the Department will lead the second phase on stakeholder input and dissemination. Next steps will include policy decisions based on the data. Board discussion focused on tracking capacity at schools in comparison to enrollment and the quality of programs offered. It was also suggested that there was a need for consistent program definitions when collecting data. The Board also asked why there was a high percentage of African American students in choice programs and if the students' needs were not met in their home schools. There was also discussion on equitable access to programs for all students and the difference in the quality of those programs. Secretary Godowsky noted that the second phase of the project would address many of the concerns raised by the Board.

The Board took a brief recess from 2:40 .m. to 2:50 p.m.

### **State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 5** **WEIC Update – Presentation of Final Proposal**

#### WEIC Update

Dr. Dan Rich, Tony Allen, Elizabeth Lockman, Dr. Joe Pika and Dr. Henry Harper presented the WEIC of the final proposal. The final proposal was approved by WEIC and submitted to the Board the day before this meeting. It was noted that public comment will continue until January 14<sup>th</sup>. Several WEIC members were present at the meeting and were introduced by Mr. Allen. He also stated that low income students are struggling and there is a need for a better system to meet the needs of these students. Not having such a system could be costly to the State making it less attractive for businesses. Of the State's 135,000 students, 11,500 are in the City of Wilmington attending 23 schools. It is the recommendation that the Wilmington students currently served by the Christina School District be assigned to the Red Clay School District. The Christina District approved the redistricting framework and the Red Clay Board approved altering their boundaries to include the Christina School District students in the City of Wilmington. The Colonial and Brandywine School Districts both affirmed their commitment to continue to serve students in the City of Wilmington that are in their current boundaries. The timeline noted that if approved 2016-2017 would be for planning, with 2017-2018 as a transition year and implementation in 2018-2019. WEIC would continue to evaluate and measure success and if resources have been sufficiently provided. The proposal also recommends a weighted unit funding to address the needs of low income students and ELL students as well as other at risk students statewide. This would be rolled out over three years. The proposal also calls for funding during the transition stage and improvements for early childhood education and strengthening the revenue base for public education.

The Board asked that WEIC elaborate on the funding for the proposal as well as projected costs. WEIC stated that any property reassessment would not be included in the initial stage and the weighted funding would be rolled out. A very base estimated cost of \$7.5M was noted, which is a recurring cost not a one-time expenditure. The Board questioned how they could approve a plan without knowing what funding would be need. WEIC stated that the funding issue would be up to the General Assembly and the State Board was only asked to approve the plan. Dr. Gray

stated that weighted funding was important to the State Board and commented on the Task Force, EFIC, which is reviewing funding structures. The Board stressed that the funding and the numbers and amounts associated with the plan are needed so the Board has a feel for what it considering for approval. Dr. Rich noted that the roll out of the proposal was dependent on the resources that would be allocated. WEIC also noted the need for \$3M in one time funding for the transition stage. Mrs. Bunting commented that the proposal does not focus on teaching and learning and a high quality education and asked how these changes would improve teaching and learning. It was noted again that public comment would be accepted until January 14<sup>th</sup> with the Board taking action at its January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

The Board recessed for five minutes.

## **State Board Meeting Audio – Part 6 Delaware Accountability System, Regulations**

### Delaware Accountability System

Penny Schwinn provided the Board with an update beginning with the transition of the SAT for 11<sup>th</sup> grade accountability. Dr. Godowsky noted that the technical details are being discussed with hopes for a 2016 roll out. In reference to the State's accountability plan, the waiver received from the U.S. Department of Education is in effect until August 1, 2016 and the State will have until July 1, 2017 to make any adjustments. It was also noted that the State's Assessment Inventory has been recognized nationally as a model for other states.

Dr. Schwinn provided an update on the priority and focus schools. The Department has provided support sessions for schools to write plans and has also contracted with Mass Insight to help provide capacity for schools. Delaware has ten newly named focus schools that are using 2015-2016 as a planning year. Three of these schools have requested to implement as an improvement in January 2016. It was pointed out that the Christina School District schools are in the second year of planning as the Department has not received a plan. Dr. Gray voiced her dismay and concern that the district has failed to respond to the Department's requests. Dr. Godowsky stated that it is the Department's expectation that the district will submit their plan. It was also noted that the educators in that district are to be commended for helping their students achieve without the additional funding they could be receiving. The Reward and Recognition Schools were also announced.

### Department Regulations

Tina Shockley presented the Department's regulations before the Board.

Regulation 286 was before the Board for action. This regulation is being created pursuant to House Bill 146 of the 148<sup>th</sup> General Assembly which revises the regulation to charge a fee for educator licensure. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote. The appropriate Order was signed.

Regulation 503, Instructional Program Requirements and Regulation 932 Military Connected Youth was also before the Board for discussion. DIAA regulations 1008 and 1009 were also on the agenda for discussion. The DIAA regulations were republished and address the policy for transgender students in athletics. It was noted that the remaining regulations listed on the agenda were for the Board's information as they require the approval of the Secretary only.

Mrs. Bunting excused herself at this time.

## **State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 7 Charter Schools**

### Charter Schools

Director of the DOE Charter School Office, Jennifer Nagourney, and David Blowman, Chair of the Charter School Accountability Committee, presented the Charter School items.

Three schools were presented for renewal of the school's charter. Ms. Nagourney highlighted the renewal process as well as the criteria used by the CSAC to determine if the application should be approved. It was the recommendation of the CSAC to approve all three renewals without conditions.

The first school on the agenda was Campus Community School. The school serves 417 students and was established in 1998. Secretary Godowsky concurred with the recommendation of the Charter School Accountability Committee and asked for the assent of the State Board. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to assent to the Secretary's approval to renew the charter application for Campus Community School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mrs. Bunting).

The next school was MOT Charter School. The school serves 1020 students and was established in 2002. Secretary Godowsky concurred with the recommendation of the Charter School Accountability Committee and asked for the assent of the State Board. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to assent to the Secretary's approval to renew the charter application for MOT Charter School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mrs. Bunting).

The last school on the agenda for renewal was Providence Creek Academy Charter School. The school serves 688 students and was established in 2002. Secretary Godowsky concurred with the recommendation of the Charter School Accountability Committee and asked for the assent of the State Board. The recommendation also includes the school's request to change the school's mission. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to assent to the Secretary's approval to renew the charter application for Providence Creek Academy Charter School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mrs. Bunting).

In October the Delaware MET Charter School was placed on formal review. Ms. Nagourney cited the issues that resulted in the formal review and the timeline to the present of the CSAC meetings and multiple public hearings. It was the recommendation of the Charter School Accountability Committee to revoke the school's charter effective January 22, 2016. Secretary Godowsky noted the careful consideration that went into his decision. He asked for the assent of the State Board to accept his recommendation to revoke the school's charter effective January 22,

2016. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to assent to the Secretary's recommendation and revoke the charter of Delaware MET, effective January 22, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried by roll call vote (Yes: Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Melendez, Mrs. Rutt, Dr. Gray. No: Mr. Coverdale. Not Present: Mrs. Bunting). It was explained that the Department would work the parents of the students in attendance at Delaware MET on their options after the school closes. District schools and other charter schools have been receptive in assisting these students with new schools.

Ms. Nagourney provided the charter update beginning with the probation conditions concerning Academy of Dover, Delaware Design Lab, Freire Charter and Prestige Academy. Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security has submitted a major modification to modify its enrollment by more than 15%. The Board also received the application review timeline for any new charter applications that may be received.

### **State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 8 Professional Standards Board, Information Items, Adjournment**

#### Professional Standards Board

Chris Kenton, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board presented the PSB items to the State Board.

Regulation 1502 Professional Growth Salary Increments was on the agenda for approval to publish. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the publication of Regulation 1502. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mrs. Bunting).

Regulation 1590 Delaware Administrator Standards was on the agenda for approval to publish. Jackie Wilson from the Delaware Academy of School Leadership was present to review the changes to the regulation. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the publication of Regulation 1590. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mrs. Bunting).

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mrs. Bunting).

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Steven H. Godowsky, Executive Secretary and  
Secretary of Education